

# Haolun Wu

Ph.D. candidate, Computer Science  
McGill University, Mila - Quebec AI Institute  
Borealis AI Fellowship, FRQNT PhD Fellowship  
<https://haolun-wu.github.io/>

Room - 305, McConnell Engineering Building  
School of Computer Science, McGill University  
✉ [haolun.wu@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:haolun.wu@mail.mcgill.ca); [haolun.wu@mila.quebec](mailto:haolun.wu@mila.quebec)

## Research Interests

**Areas:** Information Retrieval, Knowledge Representation, Personalization, FATE, LLMs

*My research is around human-centric AI and broadly touches personalization, evaluation, and responsibility. I am specifically interested in using AI/ML techniques for human satisfaction and social benefits.*

## Academic Training

2021-present **Ph.D. Computer Science**, Mila & McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Supervisory committee: [Steve Liu](#), [Fernando Diaz](#), [Laurent Charlin](#), [Joëlle Pineau](#)

Thesis topic: *Learning from Human Feedback for Personalization in Information Access*

*Expected graduation: 2026*

2019-2021 **M.Sc. Computer Science**, Mila & McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Thesis: *Balancing Fairness in Multi-stakeholder Recommendation via Multi-objective Optimization*. Published at [ACM Transactions on Information Systems \(TOIS\)](#).

2018-2018 **International Exchange**, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), San Diego, USA.

2015-2019 **B.E. Computer Science and Engineering**, Northeastern University, Shenyang, China.

Outstanding Graduation Thesis and Graduate. **Outstanding Student for all 4 years (top 1%)**.

## Relevant Industrial Experience

Aug. 2023- **Student Researcher**, Google Research, Mountain View, USA.

Feb. 2024 In **Descartes** Team.

Director: [Ray Kurzweil](#) / [Yun-hsuan Sung](#). Project Mentor: [Cicero Nogueira dos Santos](#).

○ Knowledge localization in LLMs and Mixture-of-Experts (MoEs).

Feb. 2023- **Mila Research Collaborator**, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK.

present In **Alexandria** Team.

Manager: [John Winn](#). Project Mentor: [Bhaskar Mitra](#).

○ Focus on information extraction, joint text and knowledge base (KB) masked modeling.

Nov. 2022- **Research Intern**, Google Research, Mountain View, USA.

Feb. 2023 In **MuDcATs** (*Making Decisions with Activity-based, Temporal & Sequential Data*) Team.

Manager / mentor: [Craig Boutilier](#).

○ Propose density-based user representation (DUR) through Gaussian Process Regression, for better personalized multi-interest retrieval.

Sep. 2020- **Mila Research Collaborator**, Microsoft Research, Montreal, Canada.

Jun. 2021 In **FATE** (*Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, and Ethics*) Team.

Manager / mentor: [Fernando Diaz](#).

- Propose a multi-objective optimization framework for fairness-aware recommendation, Multi-FR, that adaptively balances accuracy and fairness for various stakeholders with Pareto optimality guarantee. Paper published at [ACM Transactions on Information Systems \(TOIS\)](#) 2022.

## Publications - Full list on my [Google Scholar](#) profile.

### Preprint

- arXiv Emiliano Penaloza, Olivier Gouvert, **Haolun Wu**, Laurent Charlin. “*Text Representations for Scrutable Recommendations*”.
- arXiv Shangyu Wu, Ying Xiong, Yufei Cui, **Haolun Wu**, Can Chen, Ye Yuan, Lianming Huang, Xue Liu, Tei-Wei Kuo, Nan Guan, Chun Jason Xue. “*Retrieval-Augmented Generation for Natural Language Processing: A Survey*”.
- arXiv Ye Yuan, Youyuan Zhang, Can Chen, **Haolun Wu**, Zixuan Li, Jianmo Li, James J. Clark, and Xue Liu. “*Design Editing for Offline Model-based Optimization*”.
- arXiv Fuyuan Lyu, Xing Tang, Dugang Liu, **Haolun Wu**, Chen Ma, Xiuqiang He, and Xue Liu. “*Feature Representation Learning for Click-through Rate Prediction: A Review and New Perspectives*”. arXiv:2302.02241.
- arXiv Yansen Zhang, Bowei He, **Haolun Wu**, Zexu Sun and Chen Ma. “*Counterfactual Multi-Player Bandits for Explainable Recommendation Diversification*”.
- arXiv Chengming Hu, Xuan Li, Dan Liu, **Haolun Wu**, Ju Wang, and Xi Chen. “*Teacher-Student Architecture for Knowledge Learning: A Survey*”. arXiv:2210.17332.

### Journal Articles

- J4 Hao Zhou, Chengming Hu, Ye Yuan, Yufei Cui, Yili Jin, Can Chen, **Haolun Wu**, Dun Yuan, Li Jiang, IEEE Commun. Di Wu, Xue Liu, Charlie Zhang, Xianbin Wang, and Jiangchuan Liu. “*Large Language Model (LLM) for Telecommunications: A Comprehensive Survey on Principles, Key Techniques, and Opportunities*”. Communications Surveys and Tutorials, 2024.
- J3 **Haolun Wu**<sup>\*</sup>, Yansen Zhang<sup>\*</sup>, Chen Ma, Fuyuan Lyu, Bhaskar Mitra, and Xue Liu. “*Result Diversification in Search and Recommendation: A Survey*”. IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, 2024.
- J2 Chang Meng, Ziqi Zhao, Wei Guo, Yingxue Zhang, **Haolun Wu**, Chen Gao, Dong Li, Xiu Li, Ruiming Tang. “*Coarse-to-Fine Knowledge-Enhanced Multi-Interest Learning Framework for Multi-Behavior Recommendation*”. ACM Transactions on Information Systems, 2023.
- J1 **Haolun Wu**, Chen Ma, Bhaskar Mitra, Fernando Diaz, and Xue Liu. “*A Multi-objective Optimization Framework for Multi-stakeholder Fairness-aware Recommendation*”. ACM Transactions on Information Systems, 2022.

### Conference Proceedings

- C13 **Haolun Wu**, Ofer Meshi, Masrour Zoghi, Fernando Diaz, Xue Liu, Craig Boutilier, and Maryam Karimzadehgan. “*Density-based User Representation through Gaussian Process Regression for Multi-interest Personalized Retrieval*”. In the 38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems. Vancouver, Canada. Dec. 2024. Poster, 25.8%
- C12 **Haolun Wu**<sup>\*</sup>, Ye Yuan<sup>\*</sup>, Liana Mikaelyan, Alexander Meulemans, Xue Liu, James Hensman, and Bhaskar Mitra. “*Learning to Extract Structured Entities Using Language Models*”. In the 19th Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing. Miami, Florida, USA. Nov. 2024. Oral, top 3%
- C11 Ziqiang Cui, **Haolun Wu**, Bowei He, Ji Cheng, Kede Ma, Chen Ma. “*Diffusion-based Contrastive Learning for Sequential Recommendation*”. In the 33rd ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management. Boise, Idaho, USA. Oct. 2024. Oral, 23.0%

- C10 SIGIR ICTIR Oral, 41.0% **Haolun Wu**, Bhaskar Mitra, Nick Craswell. “Towards Group-aware Search Success”. In the 10th ACM SIGIR / the 14th International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval. Washington DC, USA. Jul. 2024.
- C9 CHI Oral, 26.4% Xiaoshan Huang\*, **Haolun Wu**\*, Xue Liu, and Susanne Lajoie. “Examining the Role of Peer Acknowledgements on Social Annotations: Unraveling the Psychological Underpinnings”. In the 41st ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. Honolulu, USA. May. 2024.
- C8 ICLR Poster, 30.8% **Haolun Wu**\*, Chengming Hu\*, Xuan Li, Chen Ma, Xi Chen, Boyu Wang, Jun Yan, and Xue Liu. “Less or More from Teacher: Exploiting Trilateral Geometry for Knowledge Distillation”. In the 12th International Conference on Learning Representations. Vienna, Austria. May. 2024.
- C7 ICDE Oral, 30.6% **Haolun Wu**, Chen Ma, Yingxue Zhang, Xue Liu, and Mark Coates. “Self-supervised Contrastive Alignment for Tag-enhanced Recommendation”. For the 39th IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering. Anaheim, USA. Apr. 2023.
- C6 CIKM Oral, 21.3% **Haolun Wu**, Chen Ma, Yingxue Zhang, Xue Liu, and Mark Coates. “Adapting Triplet Importance of Implicit Feedback for Personalized Recommendation”. In the 31st ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management. Atlanta, USA. Oct. 2022.
- C5 SIGIR Oral, 20.3% **Haolun Wu**\*, Bhaskar Mitra\*, Chen Ma, Fernando Diaz, and Xue Liu. “Joint Multisided Exposure Fairness for Recommendation”. In the 45th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval. Madrid, Spain. Jul. 2022.
- C4 AAAI Oral, 21.4% Chen Ma, Liheng Ma, Yingxue Zhang, **Haolun Wu**, Xue Liu, and Mark Coates. “Knowledge-Enhanced Top-K Recommendation in Poincaré Ball”. In the 35th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. Virtual. Feb. 2021.
- C3 AUTEEE **Haolun Wu**, Yunfei Feng. “A Pioneering Scalable Self-driving Car Simulation Platform”. In the IEEE 2nd International Conference on Automation, Electronics and Electrical Engineering. Shenyang, China. Nov. 2019.
- C2 SMC Chong Fu, Yufu Shan, Muyang He, Ziyuan Yu, and **Haolun Wu**. “A New Medical Image Encryption Algorithm Using Multiple 1-D Chaotic Maps”. In the IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics. Miyazaki, Japan. Oct. 2018.
- C1 ICCAIRO Yufu Shan, Muyang He, Ziyuan Yu, and **Haolun Wu**. “Pixel Level Image Encryption Based on Semantic Segmentation”. In the IEEE International Conference on Control, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Optimization. Prague, Czech Republic. May. 2018.

### Patents

- P3 **Haolun Wu**, Chen Ma, Yingxue Zhang, and Mark Coates. “Recommendation System With Adaptive Thresholds for Neighborhood Selection”. US 2022/0253722 A1. Patent US 2022.
- P2 **Haolun Wu**, Chen Ma, and Yingxue Zhang. “Recommendation System with Adaptive Weighted Bayesian Personalized Ranking Loss”. US 2022/0253688 A1. Patent US 2022.
- P1 **Haolun Wu**, Haodong Lai, Yutao Liu, Wentao Zhou, and Qinlai Li. “A Method For Real-Time Image Style Transfer Based On Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks ”. AU2017101166A4. IP Australia 2017.

### Grants & Fellowships

**Total funding: \$279,334. Total share of funding: \$173,834.**

I made significant contribution to the writing of the following grant and fellowship proposals during Ph.D.

- 2024 **Fonds de recherche du Québec** FRQNT Ph.D. Fellowship (\$58,334, share 100%) (rank 1<sup>st</sup>-place)
- 2023 **Borealis AI Fellowship** (\$10,000, share 100%) (1 of the 10 recipients in Canada)
- 2022 **MSR-Mila Collaboration Grant** (\$66,000, share 50%)

Lead PI: Xue (Steve) Liu; Industrial Mentor: Bhaskar Mitra, John Winn

Title: SNAKE: Structured Neural Attention over Knowledge base Entities

Funding Body: Microsoft Research

2022 MITACS Accelerate Fellowship (\$90,000, share 50%)

Lead PI: Xue (Steve) Liu; Industrial Mentor: Shuo Wang

Title: Fairness-aware Matching for Dynamic Predictive Behavior Matching

Funding Body: Bell Canada, MITACS

2020 MSR-Mila Collaboration Grant (\$55,000, share 50%)

Lead PI: Xue (Steve) Liu; Industrial Mentor: Fernando Diaz

Title: [Two-sided Recommendation with Fairness](#)

Funding Body: Microsoft Research

## Honors & Awards

**Total award amount: \$48,300.**

2024 Grad Excellence Award (\$6,000), *McGill University*

2024 Student Travel Award (\$1,000), *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*

2023 Grad Excellence Award (\$6,000), *McGill University*

2023 Graduate Stimulus and Financial Supplement (\$1,750+\$1,500+\$850), *McGill University*

2022 Grad Excellence Award (\$7,000+\$1,000), *McGill University*

2022 SIGIR Student Travel Grant. (\$1,350+\$850)

2021 Apple Scholars PhD Fellowship Nominee (1 out of 3 students at *McGill University*)

2021 Grad Excellence Award (\$5,000), *McGill University*

2020 Grad Excellence Award (\$12,600), *McGill University*

2019 Excellent Graduation Thesis, *Northeastern University*

2016-2019 Outstanding Student (\$2,400), *Northeastern University*

2017 First Prize, *CUMCM (Contemporary Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modelling)*

2017 MCM/ICM Meritorious Winner, *COMAP (Consortium for Mathematics and Its Application)*

2016 Yao Tianshun Scholarship (\$1,000, 2 out of 250 students), *Northeastern University*

2014 First Prize (rank 18<sup>th</sup> in **Sichuan Province**), *CMS (Chinese Mathematical Association)*

## Media

2023 [McGill PhD Candidates Earn Borealis AI Fellowships](#). McGill Reporter.

## Community & Leadership

### ○ Mila Lab Representatives

- I am honored to have been elected and to serve as one of the [lab representatives \(11 out of 1000+ students\)](#) for 2023-24 at *Mila - Quebec AI Institute*, where I proudly represent the McGill PhD cohort. The Mila LabReps act as a bridge between students and the various members of Mila's ecosystem. I am actively involved in organizing student assemblies, writing newsletters, managing finances, and facilitating communication among students, professors, and staff.

### ○ Founder and Organizer

- I co-found and organize a reading group [DEFirst](#) at *Mila - Quebec AI Institute* and the *Vector Institute* to build an interdisciplinary forum of researchers, students and professors alike, across both industry and academia, who work at the intersection of IR and Search, Fairness, Generative Model, and Trustworthy AI. The YouTube channel is here: <https://www.youtube.com/@defirstreadinggroup-milaxv8747/videos>.

### ○ Participant

- [Summer School in Responsible Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Human Rights](#) hosted by Mila and University of Montreal (selected as 1 of the 40 global participants).

### ○ Session Chair

- SIGIR 2022 (Session: Collaborative Filtering)

#### ○ PC member / Reviewer

- NeurIPS 2024
- ICLR 2024
- ICML 2024
- KDD 2024
- AAAI 2022
- SIGIR 2022/2023/2024
- TKDD 2022

### ————— Talk, Lecture & Mentorship

#### ○ Talk and Lecture

- **Teach:** *"Applications of Machine Learning in Real World Systems"* (COMP 597 & 598).  
Head: Xue (Steve) Liu. McGill University. Winter 2021 & 2022.
- **Talk:** *"Multi-FR: A Multi-Objective Optimization Method for Achieving Two-sided Fairness in E-commerce Recommendation"*, Microsoft Bing.  
Head: Nick Craswell. Oct. 2021.
- **Talk:** *"Joint Multisided Exposure Fairness for Search and Recommendation"*.  
(selected as 1 of the 6 contributed Talks at Montreal AI Symposium 2022)  
Microsoft Bing. Apr. 2022; Bell Canada. Aug. 2022; Mila. Sep. 2022.

#### ○ Mentored / Collaborated with several undergraduate and junior graduate students. (2022-)

- Hillary Tao (McGill)
- Yansen Zhang (CityU of Hong Kong)
- Rui Song (McGill)
- Evelyn Cao (McGill)
- Ye Yuan (McGill)

### ————— Coding Skills

Python, Pytorch, Tensorflow, Jax.

### ————— Extracurricular Activities

- I am a certificated **clarinet player**. I was a member of Musicians Association of Sichuan, China. My advisor was Yi Zhu, who is now a Deputy Director of the Music Department of Sichuan University.
- I am also a master in **Chinese Calligraphy**. My advisor was Jialin Zheng, who is now a Vice Chairman of Sichuan Calligraphers Association and Vice Chairman of Chengdu Calligraphers Association.

### ————— References

#### ○ Xue (Steve) Liu

Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering (FCAE); Fellow of the IEEE (FIEEE)  
Professor & William Dawson Scholar, *School of Computer Science, McGill University, Montreal, Canada*  
Associate Member, *Mila - Quebec AI Institute*  
VP R&D, Chief Scientist / Co-Director, *Samsung AI Center, Montreal, Canada*  
[xue.liu@mcgill.ca](mailto:xue.liu@mcgill.ca)

#### ○ Fernando Diaz

Associate Professor, *Language Technologies Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA*  
Research Scientist, *Google Research, Montreal, Canada*  
[diazf@acm.org](mailto:diazf@acm.org)

#### ○ Craig Boutilier

Principle Scientist, *Google Research, Mountain View, USA*  
(Previous) Professor, *Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*  
[cboutilier@google.com](mailto:cboutilier@google.com)